

Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge  
2700 Suwannee Canal Road  
Folkston, GA 31537  
Phone: (912) 496-7836  
Fax: (912) 496-7991  
<http://www.fws.gov/refuge/okefenokee>

# News Release



**For Immediate Release**  
Date: February 23, 2016

Contact: Susan Heisey, 912-496-7366, ex 233  
Supervisory Refuge Ranger

## **Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge Announces Spring Programs and Activities**

Folkston, GA.....Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge will be offering an array of activities and special events for families to enjoy throughout the months of March, April, and May. A variety of programs will be offered to provide visitors with fun and educational opportunities. Programs offered are family-friendly, and free (unless otherwise noted). The \$5 refuge entrance pass or other entrance pass will be required. All interpretive programs require registration in advance; anyone interested in signing up for these programs should contact the Richard S. Bolt Visitor Center at 912-496-7836 between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. daily.

### ***March***

#### **Saturday, March 12**

#### **Photography Workshop with John Reed, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

Join award winning nature photographer, John Reed, for a workshop on nature and wildlife photography. The workshop will include classroom lessons and field shooting. Participants must bring their own equipment. Registration and fee (\$60 in advance) are required. Space is limited.

#### **Owl Prowl, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

Join refuge staff and volunteers for a stroll down Chesser Island Boardwalk at sunset. Climb the Owls Roost Tower and experience an Okefenokee evening. Look, listen, and learn of nocturnal creatures of the swamp. Meet at the Visitor Center picnic area.

#### **Saturday, March 19**

#### **'Oke' Archery Days, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

Join a certified instructor to learn the basics of archery. The program is geared towards children ages 5-15, but is also open to adults. Participants will learn how to properly use a bow and arrow, and gain improvement in their marksmanship abilities. Parents/guardians must be present with their child for the duration of the program.

#### **Conservation Film Series, 1:00 p.m.**

Join us for a free and educational, family– friendly film. Showing will begin at 1:00 p.m. and will showcase a film showing the history of the refuge, alligators, birds, and more. Showing will not last more than one hour. Reservations are available, but walk-ups will be welcome the day of the showing.

#### **Saturday, March 26**

#### **Beginner Birding Hike, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

Join refuge birders for a guided birding hike. All ages and skill levels are encouraged to attend, especially beginners. Dress appropriately for the weather, and bring binoculars and a field guide. The Visitor Center does have a loaner binocular program, but availability will be limited. Other suggested items to bring are snacks and water, as well as a camera. Meet at the Visitor Center picnic area.

**Owl Prowl, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

Join refuge staff and volunteers for a stroll down Chesser Island Boardwalk at sunset. Climb the Owls Roost Tower and experience an Okefenokee evening. Look, listen, and learn of nocturnal creatures of the swamp. Meet at the Visitor Center picnic area.

*April*

Saturday, April 2

**‘Oke’ Archery Days, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

Join a certified instructor to learn the basics of archery. The program is geared towards children ages 5-15, but is also open to adults. Participants will learn how to properly use a bow and arrow, and gain improvement in their marksmanship abilities. Parents/guardians must be present with their child for the duration of the program.

Tuesday, April 5

**Build-Your-Own Rain Barrel Workshop, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

Join us for an interactive program with guests from the GA DNR to learn about and construct your own rain barrel! Registration and fee (\$25) is required. Space is limited. Contact the Visitor Center for more information or to register.

Saturday, April 9

**Owl Prowl, 6:15 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.**

Join refuge staff and volunteers for a stroll down Chesser Island Boardwalk at sunset. Climb the Owls Roost Tower and experience an Okefenokee evening. Look, listen, and learn of nocturnal creatures of the swamp. Meet at the Visitor Center picnic area.

Saturday, April 16

**‘Oke’ Archery Days, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

Join a certified instructor to learn the basics of archery. The program is geared towards children ages 5-15, but is also open to adults. Participants will learn how to properly use a bow and arrow, and gain improvement in their marksmanship abilities. Parents/guardians must be present with their child for the duration of the program.

**Conservation Film Series, 1:00 p.m.**

Join us for a free and educational, family– friendly film. Showing will begin at 1:00 p.m. and will showcase a film showing the history of the refuge, alligators, birds, and more. Showing will not last more than one hour. Reservations are available, but walk-ups will be welcome the day of the showing.

Saturday, April 23

**Earth Day Litter Pickup 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**

Come and support the local community and the refuge in honor of Earth Day! Make a difference by participating in the refuge litter pickup. Meet at Highway 121, mile marker 30, at Prospect Church. Participants need to bring gloves and water. After the cleanup, all litter pickup participants will be offered free refuge entrance and a hotdog cookout - located at the picnic pavilion near the Visitor Center. For more information or to participate, contact Gracie Gooch at 912-496-7836.

**Beginner Birding Hike, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

Join refuge birders for a guided birding hike. All ages and skill levels are encouraged to attend, especially beginners. Dress appropriately for the weather, and bring binoculars and a field guide. The Visitor Center does have a loaner binocular program, but availability will be limited. Other suggested items to bring are snacks and water, as well as a camera. Meet at the Visitor Center picnic area.

**Earth Day Celebration, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

Come and celebrate Earth Day by visiting Okefenokee NWR! Participate in family friendly activities, programs, and crafts. Explore the Swamp Island Drive to learn more about the refuge and experience the Okefenokee Swamp. Activities will be on-going and located at the Visitor Center. Boat tours and rentals will be available with Okefenokee Adventures. For more information or to inquire about celebration details, contact the refuge Visitor Center at 912-496-7836. An event flyer can be found on our website.

**Owl Prowl, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**

Join refuge staff and volunteers for a stroll down Chesser Island Boardwalk at sunset. Climb the Owls Roost Tower and experience an Okefenokee evening. Look, listen, and learn of nocturnal creatures of the swamp. Meet at the Visitor Center picnic area.

Saturday, April 30

**‘Oke’ Archery Days, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

Join a certified instructor to learn the basics of archery. The program is geared towards children ages 5-15, but is also open to adults. Participants will learn how to properly use a bow and arrow, and gain improvement in their marksmanship abilities. Parents/guardians must be present with their child for the duration of the program.

*May*

Saturday, May 7

**Owl Prowl, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**

Join refuge staff and volunteers for a stroll down Chesser Island Boardwalk at sunset. Climb the Owls Roost Tower and experience an Okefenokee evening. Look, listen, and learn of nocturnal creatures of the swamp. Meet at the Visitor Center picnic area.

Saturday, May 14 - International Migratory Bird Day

**Beginner Birding for Kids & Families, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

Interested in learning more about bird watching, and how to make it a fun, family activity? Join a ranger for an introduction to the basics of beginner birding, and learn that it’s not hard at all to get started.

**Owls of the Okefenokee, 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

Want to learn more about the owls of the Okefenokee? Learn how to identify them by sight and sound and about the general biology of these amazing animals, including where they live, what they eat, and how they use their senses and other physical attributes to hunt their prey.

**Owl Prowl, 6:45 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.**

Join refuge staff and volunteers for a stroll down Chesser Island Boardwalk at sunset. Climb the Owls Roost Tower and experience an Okefenokee evening. Look, listen, and learn of nocturnal creatures of the swamp. Meet at the Visitor Center picnic area.

Saturday, May 21

**Conservation Film Series, 1:00 p.m.**

Join us for a free and educational, family– friendly film. Showing will begin at 1:00 p.m. and will showcase a film showing the history of the refuge, alligators, birds, and more. Showing will not last more than one hour. Reservations are available, but walk-ups will be welcome the day of the showing.

All activities will take place at the Main Entrance (Suwannee Canal Recreation Area) of the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. To registration or for more information, contact the Richard S. Bolt Visitor Center at 912-496-7836 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily. Programs may be cancelled or rescheduled due to inclement weather and are subject to staff availability.

The Main Entrance (Suwannee Canal Recreation Area) to the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and is located 11 miles southwest of Folkston, GA off Hwy 121/23. The refuge is open daily and offers a variety of opportunities for the visiting public. Call 912-496-7836 or visit the refuge website at [www.fws.gov/refuge/okefenokee](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/okefenokee) for hours of operation, upcoming events, and entrance fee information.

*The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov). Connect with our Facebook pages at [www.facebook.com/okefenokeewildliferefuge](http://www.facebook.com/okefenokeewildliferefuge) or [www.facebook.com/usfwssoutheast](http://www.facebook.com/usfwssoutheast), follow our tweets at [www.twitter.com/usfwssoutheast](http://www.twitter.com/usfwssoutheast), watch our YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/usfws> and download photos from our Flickr page at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwssoutheast>.*